

**HEROD AGRIPPA II**

**Vital Statistics:**

- Occupation – Roman appointee; ruled in northern and eastern Palestine; he did not succeed his father as “*King of the Jews*,” but was an “*expert in all customs and questions which were among the Jews.*”
- In 50 AD, he was King of Chaelis; a small realm in the Lebanon
- In 53 AD, he exchanged this realm for what had been the territory of Philip the Tetrarch, and the territory east of Galilee and the Upper Jordan
- In 66 AD, he failed to dissuade the Judeans from revolt against Rome; he actually sided with the Romans and fought alongside Vespasian.
- After the fall of Jerusalem (70 AD) he went to Rome and died there (100 AD), while holding the rank of praetor.

**Relatives:**

Great-grandfather – Herod the Great  
Father – Herod Agrippa I  
Mother - Cypros  
Great-uncle – Herod Antipas  
Aunt – Herodias  
Sisters – Bernice (*prominently took on role as his “significant other”*) and Drusilia

**Contemporaries:**

Paul, Felix, Festus  
Peter, Luke

**Accomplishments & Strengths:**

- He was the 7<sup>th</sup> and last king in the “Herod Dynasty” that ruled parts of Palestine from 40 BC to 100 AD
- During early rule, he continued his father’s success in mediating between Rome and Palestine.
- He continued the family tradition of building and improving cities.

**Weaknesses and mistakes:**

- He was not convinced by the gospel and consciously rejected it.
- He carried on an incestuous relationship with his sister Bernice.

**Lessons from his life:**

- Families often pass on both positive and negative influences to their children.
- There are no guarantees of multiple opportunities to respond to God.

### **SHORT COMMENTARY:**

Like great-grandfather, like grandfather, like father, like son – this tells the story of Herod Agrippa II. He inherited the effects of generations of powerful men with flawed personalities. Each son followed his father in weakness, mistakes, and missed opportunities. Each generation had a confrontation with God, but each failed to realize the importance of the decision. Herod Agrippa's great-uncle, Herod Antipas, actually met Jesus during his trial, but failed to see Jesus for who he was. Agrippa II heard the gospel from Paul, but considered the message mild entertainment. He found it humorous that Paul actually tried to convince him to become a Christian.

Like so many before and after him, Agrippa II stopped within hearing distance of the kingdom of God. He left himself without excuse. He heard the gospel but decided it wasn't worth responding to personally. Unfortunately, his mistake isn't that uncommon. Many who read the gospel story will also not believe. Their problem, like that of Agrippa II, is not really that the gospel isn't convincing or that they don't need to know God personally; it is that they choose not to respond.